

**Massachusetts Workforce Development Board**  
**Board Committee Updates**  
*March – June, 2017*

<b>Economic Opportunity Committee</b>
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The Economic Opportunity Committee met via conference call in April to address the Career Readiness Initiative (CRI), a statewide, multi-agency initiative to enhance work readiness skills and improve employment outcomes for low-skilled and/or unemployed individuals, and the Workforce Competitiveness Trust (WCTF), a program that invests in training and education partnerships to train unemployed and underemployed workers for jobs that are in demand.

The committee reviewed the strategy, structure and goals of the Career Readiness Initiative, including a focused discussion on employer engagement. The committee provided feedback and guidance on employer engagement strategies, such as identifying employers to target for outreach, and venues for effective outreach. The committee also discussed capacity opportunities and issues that should be addressed to allow participating organizations (one-stop career centers, community colleges and adult education providers) to maximize effectiveness of the CRI. The committee hopes to continue the discussion about employer engagement, as well as discuss CRI sustainability beyond the three-year pilot period.

The committee also discussed the FY 17 round of the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund that focuses on the Committee's target populations (African Americans/Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, People with Disabilities, and Veterans). Commonwealth Corporation provided an overview of the FY 17 funding round, including unique aspects of the funding structure and process, and a report out on which proposals were and those that were not funded. The committee reviewed preliminary information about those applicants that were not funded toward a future conversation on ways to enhance capacity to serve the target population through demand-driven programs, such as the WCTF.

**Co-Chairs:** Aixa Beauchamp & Anne Broholm

**Members:** Jesse Brown, Jerry Burke, Tricia Canavan, James Cassetta, Sherry Dong, Eileen Donoghue, Carol Ozelius, Warren Pepicelli, Joseph Wagner, Beth Williams

**2017 Meeting Dates:** July (TBD), August (TBD), October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## Labor Market and Workforce Information Committee

The Labor Market and Workforce Information (LMWI) Committee met in April meeting via conference call. Members received updates on initiatives related to LMWI including Regional Planning.

The group reviewed an updated version of the Labor Supply and Demand Dashboard in anticipation of presenting the dashboard as a standing agenda item at the MWDB Quarterly Meeting. The group continued to refine the dashboard by identifying key data elements to be included.

The committee examined the “deep dives” for engineering occupation and construction industry. In addition to studying the labor demand, and workforce make up of construction and engineering, this exercise began shaping a template for future “deep dives”.

A brief discussion emerged regarding the possible role of the committee going forward once the initial establishment of the Dashboard is done. Some possible areas of work might include periodic review of the Dashboard, policy recommendations, and in-depth data analyses as need arise.

**Co-Chairs:** Pam Eddinger & Joanne Pokaski

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Eric Hagopian, Susan Mailman, Beth Mitchell, Elizabeth Skidmore

**2017 Meeting Dates:** July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>; meetings times are 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## WIOA Oversight Committee

The WIOA Oversight Committee met in April in Boston to debrief the appeal the Board adjudicated (via the WIOA Oversight Committee) regarding a disputed outcome of a One-Stop Career Center selection process. The three members of the WIOA Oversight Committee that participated in adjudicating the appeal provided an overview of the process, and led the group in a discussion about refining the appeals process moving forward.

Jesse Cohen, who built a template for a performance management dashboard of the workforce system as part of his graduate program, presented his final recommendations for a performance management effort. The committee discussed the committee’s next steps in moving this effort forward.

**Chair:** Secretary Ronald Walker, II

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Donna Cupelo, Cassius Johnson, Robert LePage, Juliette Mayers, Juan Vega, Raymond Wrobel

**2017 Meeting Dates:** July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

<b>Youth Committee</b>
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Members of the Youth Committee convened in April in Boston to discuss the Committee's *Grads of Life* – *Massachusetts* campaign. The campaign is designed to catalyze employer demand for hiring Opportunity Youth, to enhance the supply of prepared talent by providing youth training providers with technical assistance and support, and to generate state policy changes to ensure training providers address employers' talent needs and deliver on outcomes. The committee reviewed stakeholder feedback received on the initiative, including feedback from the MWDB quarterly meeting in March. The committee identified other stakeholders to engage, the resources needed to be effective, and further shaped the timeline to launch the initiative.

**Chair:** Cassius Johnson

**Members:** Kristin Broadley, Kathleen Cullen-Cote, Driscoll DoCanto, John Mann

**2017 Meeting Dates:** July (TBD), August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>; meeting times are 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon